

Abstract

In order to apply natural contraception, it is necessary to determine the days when a woman is fertile and infertile. In the device, a fast thermometer for the body temperature, a calendar clock and a memory, evaluation and display unit are functionally coupled to one another such that the data which demonstrate the ovulation in connection with the variation in body temperature are processed automatically and evaluated and displayed in accordance with objective, medically recognized criteria. The method is thereby rendered more reliable and is substantially easier and more convenient to use.

Laid-open patent application DE 32 21 999 A1

DEVICE FOR DETERMINING THE DAYS WHEN A WOMAN IS FERTILE
AND INFERTILE, AND ITS APPLICATION TO NATURAL
5 CONTRACEPTION

DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

FIELD OF APPLICATION

10 The invention relates to a device for
determining the days when a woman is fertile and
infertile, in accordance with the type named in the
preamble of the main claim.

15 OBJECT

 The object of the invention is to provide those
women who wish to undertake natural contraception
because, on personal grounds, they reject other methods
of contraception, with a device which substantially
20 simplifies the application of the method of natural
contraception and renders it more reliable by excluding
sources of error. In a number of cases, the application
of this method is rendered possible for the first time
with the aid of this device.

25

PRIOR ART

 A formula which has been formulated by the
World Health Organization (WHO) in the following way is
decisive for natural contraception, that is to say for
30 a method in which no drugs or mechanical or chemical
means are applied:

 An ovulation has occurred whenever the
temperatures on three successive days are higher by at
least 0.2 degrees Celsius than on the preceding six
35 days. Thereafter, a woman is certainly infertile up to
a point in time after the next menstruation which is
yielded from the individually shortest cycle duration.
When this method is carried out, the current procedure
is that a woman uses a cycle thermometer every morning

at the same time, for approximately 5 minutes, to measure the body temperature and enters these values in a graph. The cycle thermometer and graphs are available in chemist's shops. The figures in the graphs may be
5 used in conjunction with observation of the calendar to determine the days on which the women is fertile and infertile. The application of this method is rendered difficult both by virtue of the fact that it is necessary to set an alarm clock for measurement
10 purposes, since the measurement must be performed at a specific time, and by virtue of the fact that several minutes are required for the temperature measurement. Furthermore, entry in the graphs, together with the necessary averaging and interpretation of results, is
15 complicated and attended by a number of possibilities of making a mistake. For this reason, many women can be overtaxed intellectually or by the need for disciplined compliance with this rule of behaviour.

20 OBJECT

By contrast, it is the object of the invention to improve the previously customary mode of procedure to the effect that the temperature measurement is accelerated by a fast measuring method, and that, owing
25 to an automatic storage and to the evaluation of the measured data and calendar data, the days when a woman is fertile and infertile are displayed in accordance with objective, medically recognized criteria. The manual bookkeeping of the temperature data and calendar
30 data, the averaging and the frequently subjective assessment of results are intended to be eliminated.

ACHIEVEMENT

The invention provides the features of the
35 characterizing part of the patent claim for the purpose of achieving this object.

DESCRIPTION OF AN EXEMPLARY EMBODIMENT

The device designated in the preamble can, for example, be installed in a housing which has a display panel and an operating keypad. The outer and inner
5 design can therefore come very close to that of an electronic pocket calculator. A temperature probe is connected to this device via cables.

The operating panel is to permit the following functions, for example:

- 10 setting the calendar, the clock and the alarm time signal for measurement,
inputting a shortened cycle duration and inputting the date and day of the week of the 1st day of the last menstruation,
- 15 clearing the last measured value so that the latter is not also incorporated into the evaluation for detecting fertile or infertile days, and
triggering and displaying the temperature measurement,
triggering the display of calendar, day of the week,
- 20 time of day, temperature last measured, number of the days after the first day of the last menstruation, day of the week of the first day of the last menstruation, basic cycle time, and result (fertile/infertile day and/or no statement possible).

PATENT CLAIMS

1. Device for determining the days when a woman is fertile and infertile, and its application to natural
5 contraception, characterized in that a fast body temperature measuring instrument, a calendar clock with a switching device and, as the case may be, an alarm device, as well as a control unit with evaluation, storage and display parts, are coupled to one another
10 in such a way that, on the basis of the calendar clock with the switching device, the control unit is receptive in each case on a daily basis within a specific time interval for inputting the body temperature of the woman, measured with the aid of the
15 thermometer, and undertakes storage of the measured body temperature, as well as an evaluation and display with regard to the days when a woman is fertile and infertile in accordance with recognized medical criteria.
- 20 2. Device according to Claim 1, characterized in that it is accommodated in the housing of a wristwatch, and in that the temperature sensor is integrated in the base of the watch or in the watch strap such that it can detect the body temperature.